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NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL
2101 Constitution Avenue Washington, D.C. 20418

December 16, 1996

CSK-BW

To -- Members of Committee on Russian-U.S. Collaborative Program for Research and Monitoring of Pathogens of Global Importance

From -- Jo Husbands, Chris Howson, Glenn Schweitzer

We are delighted that you are able to accept membership on this new committee of the National Academy of Sciences and Institute of Medicine. We believe that you will have an interesting experience while contributing very directly to the development of U.S. Government policy on an important aspect of national security concerns.

We are still in the process of confirming the dates of the two meetings of the Committee. Our tentative schedule calls for two two-day meetings in Washington in February-early March and in June-early July. Please forward to Chuck Fogelgren, of our staff, the available windows on your calendars during those time periods as soon as possible (fax 202-334-1730). We will find dates that accommodate as many committee members as possible. We realize that some of you will not be able to make both meetings; but we are hopeful that even if you cannot attend, you will be able to provide us with your inputs as this program develops. In this regard, we will send you materials for the meetings as early as possible so that the views of all members can be considered at the meetings.

Security clearances are not essential for participation in this project. However, some committee members already have clearances arranged through various channels, and these clearances may be helpful as the project develops. We are prepared to request clearances for any other interested members through Academy channels. Let us know if you would like us to initiate the procedures for a security clearance for you.

In order to bring you up to date on developments thus far, we are enclosing for your information:

- (1) Roster of Committee members,
- (2) Summary of Committee's task,
- (3) Report to the Department of Defense on the status of the project,
- (4) Report of a trip to Russia by two committee members and staff, and
- (5) Status of the pilot projects, including descriptions of four proposals.

Please do not hesitate to contact any one of us if you have questions or suggestions concerning the Committee's activities.

Russian-U.S. Collaborative Program for Research and Monitoring of Pathogens of Global Importance

*The National Academy of Sciences
Institute of Medicine*

The United States National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and its Institute of Medicine (IOM) are initiating a project to develop collaboration between biomedical researchers in Russia and the United States. The purpose is to conduct cooperative research, monitoring and public health management studies of serious diseases of global public health importance

The project will immediately initiate two joint research projects designed to demonstrate the benefit of combining American and Russian scientific expertise in biology and public health. It will also develop an institutional design for monitoring dangerous pathogens, for responding to occurrences of the diseases they cause and for conducting research on preventive and therapeutic techniques. This bilateral effort will be coordinated with other international programs that have similar purposes.

Recognizing that many of the leading specialists on the relevant pathogens in both countries have historically been associated with biological defense programs, the United States Department of Defense has provided financial support to the NAS for this effort through the Nunn-Lugar legislation. An intended benefit is to find a constructive and mutually agreed means of overcoming the legacy of suspicion that has existed in this field and of adjusting the relevant activities of both countries to a radically altered set of circumstances in which cooperation is imperative.

The initial joint research projects are to be carried out through the International Science and Technology Center in Moscow and are to be started in early 1997. A report outlining the longer term institutionalized arrangement for continued cooperative work is to be completed by September 1997.

Russian-U.S. Collaborative Program for Research and Monitoring of Pathogens of Global Importance

*National Academy of Sciences
Institute of Medicine*

Tentative Committee Roster
December 17, 1996

Chair

Joshua Lederberg, Ph.D.
Sackler Foundation Scholar
The Rockefeller University

Vice-Chair

John Steinbruner, Ph.D.
Director
Foreign Policy Studies Program
The Brookings Institution

Committee Members

Barry Bloom, Ph.D.
Investigator
Howard Hughes Medical Institute
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Yeshiva University

Gail H. Cassell, Ph.D.
Charles H. McCauley Professor and Chair
Department of Microbiology
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Robert Chanock, M.D.
Medical Director
Laboratory of Infectious Diseases
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
National Institute of Health

Harvey Fineberg, M.D., Ph.D.
Dean
School of Public Health
Harvard University

Maurice R. Hilleman, Ph.D.
Director
Merck Institute of Therapeutic Research
Merck Research Laboratories

Peter Jahrling, Ph.D.
Senior Research Scientist
Ft. Detrick
USAMRIID

James LeDuc, Ph.D.
Associate Director for Global Health
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Matthew Meselson, Ph.D.
Thomas Dudley Cabot Professor of Natural Sciences
Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology
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OraVax

Frederick A. Murphy, D.V.M.
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University of California at Davis

Alexis Shelokov, M.D.
The Salk Institute
Government Services Division

Project Co-Directors

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Director, Board on International Health

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Director, Committee on International Security and Arms Control

Glenn Schweitzer
Director, Office for Central Europe and Eurasia

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